



July 9, 2015

**KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS360-15-12**

**SUBJECT: PER—2015 Earth Team Volunteer Awards**

**Action required by:** September 11, 2015

**Purpose:** To solicit nominations for the subject awards

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2016

The National Earth Team (ET) Volunteer Award Program provides an opportunity to further recognize volunteers, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees, and partners who have made significant contributions to the ET mission.

Currently, nominations are being sought for individuals and groups in Kansas deserving of recognition for service to others in a volunteer capacity. The attached nomination templates are due to your area volunteer coordinator no later than close of business on September 11, 2015. Late nominations will not be accepted. No unsolicited material should accompany the nominations (e.g., photos, news articles, etc.). Kansas ET award winners will be submitted to National Headquarters to compete for national awards. All winners at the state level will receive a plaque with a letter from the state conservationist (STC). All winners at the national level will receive an award and a certificate from the Chief. Below are the award categories.

**ET Individual Volunteer Award:** This award recognizes an outstanding individual volunteer. One state winner will be selected for the state award and will compete for the regional and national awards. One overall national winner is selected from the regional winners.

**ET Group Volunteer Award:** This award recognizes an outstanding group of volunteers. One group will be selected for the state award and will compete for the regional and national awards. One overall national winner will be selected from the regional winners.

**ET Chief's Recognition Award:** This award is presented by the Chief to the state that most creatively and effectively uses volunteers to meet the mission of NRCS. This award is presented to the winning STC at a leadership meeting at the national level. This award nomination is prepared by the state volunteer coordinator.

**ET Chief's Field Office Recognition Award:** This award recognizes one office located at the field level for their effective use of volunteers. One office will be selected for the state award and will compete for one national award.

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ET Partnership National Association of Conservation Districts(NACD)/Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Award: This award is presented to the most effective volunteer team in a conservation district (CD) that demonstrates shared leadership among district officials, NRCS employees, and ET volunteers. One CD will be selected for the state award and will be recognized at the annual KACD Meeting in Wichita, Kansas. One national winner will be selected and receive an award and a certificate which is presented at the NACD Annual Meeting.

ET Employee Award: This award recognizes one NRCS employee for their use of volunteers and the recruitment of volunteers in the office. One state winner will be selected and will compete for the national award. One overall national winner will be selected from the regional winners.

In addition to the above categories, there is one additional award category outlined below that is specific to Kansas and is not recognized at the national level:

Outstanding ET District Manager Award: This award recognizes one outstanding district manager or clerk. The winner receives a plaque and letter signed by the STC. The winner will be recognized at the annual KACD Meeting in Wichita, Kansas.

**Contact:** Jan Klaus, State Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator, 785-625-2588 or [jan.klaus@ks.usda.gov](mailto:jan.klaus@ks.usda.gov)

*(signed)*

ERIC B. BANKS  
State Conservationist

Attachments